

What Every Parent Needs To Know About Child Safety Seats

Before installing a child safety seat, always read both the child seat instructions AND the vehicle owner's manual.

A child must be kept rear-facing to a minimum of one year of age AND 20 pounds.

When using a rear-facing convertible seat, best practice is to keep the child rear-facing until the maximum rear-facing weight limit.

When rear-facing, the harness straps should be at or below the child's shoulders, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

When front-facing, the harness straps should be at or above the child's shoulders, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The harness retainer clip should be at armpit level.

No more than one finger should fit between the child's collar bone and the harness strap.

The child safety seat should not move more than 1 inch side to side or back and forth at the belt path once it is secured in the car.

Seat belts are designed for people at least 4'9" tall and 80 pounds. Children between 40 and 80 pounds must ride in a booster seat with a lap-shoulder belt.

If your child safety seat has been involved in a crash, it is best to get a new one.

Airbags can fatally injure children, especially infants in rear-facing seats. The back seat is always the safest place for children 12 years of age and under.

